contempory *Punch* and his witty coadjutors have, it may be unwittingly, much to answer. In the recent accident just referred to, the poor fellow Lee, whose left leg was a complete pulp from hip to ancle, is said to have been "carried in that state on a slide (used to lower luggage from the tops of the carriages) to an out-house, cold and damp, without a particle of furniture, and no light save the flickering of a lantern." It is admitted, however, that otherwise the utmost possible attention was paid to all who were in any way injured. It is nevertheless advisable that the want of proper and ready accommodation and appliances in such cases on all lines should be brought under the notice of the Secretary of State, if not speedily remedied.—— Mr. Lane, brewer, Vauxhall-road, Liverpool, has patented an invention for preventing accidents from collision, and has models, driven by a locomotive, running on a temporary line on his own premises. The models, in recent experiments before the mayor and others, were repeatedly brought into contact at full speed against resisting bodies, "and in no instance did the collision produce the least apparent effect on the body, wheels, or works of the models." Mr. M'Conochie, of the firm of M'Conochie and Claude, engineers, has been engaged to make a series of experiments, the results of which will be published. The peculiar feature of the break used in this invention consists in its locking all the wheels of each carriage at the same moment, by aid of the compression of water. The buffers act in connection with the breaks, by compression of air with water in cylinders. There are also improvements in the adjustment of the bearing-springs, &c. A writer in the *Mining Journal* states, that to his astonishment a whole train was brought to a stand-still by this invention, within a few feet, at a given signal.——It has been suggested that for convenience, in second class carriages with high enough roofs, two or three straps should be stretched across the roof for the suspension of hats, as in first class carriages,—a cheap enough convenience to passengers surely.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

THE ORDNANCE SURVEY.

A SPECIAL general court was held on Thursday morning the 25th inst., Committee-room No. 10, House of Commons. The Hon. F. Byng took the chair.

The minutes of the proceedings of the committee of Tuesday, 25th, on the subject of the Ordnance survey of the metropolis were read, in which it appeared that a difference of opinion existed as to the power of the commissioners to appropriate the sewer rates towards carrying out that object. After several divisions upon the question, it was finally resolved that the opinion of the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General and Mr. Peacock should be taken as to the power of the court to appropriate the sewer rates in the way proposed, which was given in as follows:—

"We are of opinion that the Commissioners of Sewers cannot cause a general survey and plan of the metropolis to be made at the joint expense of the several districts now under their control by virtue of the seven new commissions which have been lately issued. But we are of opinion that they may cause a separate survey and plan of each district to be made, and pay the expenses of each of such surveys and plans out of the rates of that district to which the survey and plan relate. The commissioners may employ the same persons to make all the surveys and plans, so that when made they will substantially have the same benefit as they would if one general survey and plan were made, but the expenses of each survey must be kept separate. We see no objection to their employing the officers and persons in the Ordnance department to make the plans and surveys; but such officers and persons will have no greater powers or privileges as to entering upon lands without consent or the like, than any other engineers or surveyors who might be employed by the commissioners.

"Secondly.—If it should be necessary in making a survey for the purpose of correctly constructing or improving sewers within the limits of any particular district, to extend the survey beyond the limits of that district, or to examine any water-lines or levels out of the district, we are of opinion that the Commissioners may pay the expenses thereof out of the rates of the district in respect of which such work may become necessary; but care must be taken not to incur any expense which the survey of the district does not require.

"Thirdly.—We are of opinion, as before observed, that the Commissioners must charge each district with the actual expenses incurred in respect of such district, whether the survey be made by contract or otherwise; and if the work be done by contract, a separate contract in respect of each district must be made.

(Signed) "JOHN JERVIS,
JOHN ROMILLY,
B. PEACOCK."

The following recommendations of the General Purposes Committee were also read:—

"That the committee recommend to the court that the Ordnance department be requested to proceed with the block plan, so far as may be necessary for the purposes of every district, with all practicable speed, and that the Survey Committee be instructed to take care that the filling in of the necessary particulars be confined to the rateable districts respectively.

"That the committee recommend to the court that the Ordnance department be requested to superintend the charges of the triangular and block survey to the various districts, so that every district be charged only with the proportion of the expense duly incurred for the purposes of that district.

"That the committee recommend that such payments on account, as may be necessary for proceeding with the survey, be made from time to time out of the rates."

Mr. Chadwick, in moving that the opinion of counsel and recommendations of the committee be adopted, said that the course advised by the law officers of the Crown was precisely that which they had always intended to pursue. The metropolis had for years paid its quota of rates to the Consolidated Fund, out of which the surveys of the large towns in the north had been made, and, even on this ground, he considered, was entitled to its share of the charge upon that fund for the present work, so as to render any resolution upon the subject unnecessary. Parliament, however, which was omnipotent, had thought otherwise, and had determined that each town should henceforth pay for its own. He was willing that Parliament should be set right upon this point, but still he might undertake to say for himself, and even upon the very highest authority—that of Sir H. de la Beche—that the delay of a month would cost fully the amount now in question. The weather, too, and other circumstances, were highly favourable to the work, and if not proceeded with immediately, the eventual loss could not be estimated at less than a quarter of a million. He therefore moved the adoption of the opinion and resolutions of the committee.

Mr. Broderip seconded the motion.

Mr. Leslie said, that in the early stages he saw that the whole question was surrounded with difficulties, but they had been relieved from them by Government undertaking to defray the expense, on receiving the approbation of Parliament to such a course. What had been the result? why, that the House of Commons had refused its sanction to the vote, and they themselves had then undertaken to pay the expense out of the sewers rates. He (Mr. L.) objected then to what was demonstrated now, that they had no power to pay for the survey out of the sewers rates, and he could not sanction the report of the Committee, which was not clearly justified by law as a Court of Sewers. Besides, a private gentleman had offered to undertake the work at a less cost, and to perform it as unexceptionably and in a less time than that required by the Ordnance department, and why was his offer declined? The objection was, that he had no legal power—no right, to enter on private property, and this point stood first in the answer of counsel to their own application; clearly shewing that they could do that themselves. Then another point arose, shewing, that by the local Act of the Holborn and Finsbury district, they had no power to carry out the plan as far as that division is concerned, as one of the clauses declared that no work exceeding 200*l.* in any year should be performed unless such work was performed by contract; and by another clause it was stipulated that, before any work was executed to the amount of 50*l.*, security should be given for the due performance of the same. How could they comply with these clauses in the course proposed? Surely they would not contend that a survey of the metropolis was not work? He advised them not to go on in a hasty manner until they had again taken the opinion of the House of Commons, for, he felt assured, there was a bar to the proceedings as far as Holborn and Finsbury were concerned. Should they do so, he believed they would save much valuable time, for he believed the law did not authorise them to proceed in the manner they proposed.

Mr. Slaney was as desirous as any member of the court to carry out a complete survey, which he believed would lead to true economy in the end, but how was it to be done? It was estimated to cost 25,000*l.* If they got an Act of Parliament, it would give them facilities, and spread the rate of charges over a period of thirty years, instead of throwing the whole expense upon the present ratepayers. He considered it advisable, however, before proceeding further, that the commissioners should wait upon her Majesty's Government; and he had no doubt that a short Bill might be brought into the House to do all that was required.

Lord Ebrington, as a member of the House of Commons, could state that Lord Morpeth had given assurances that the charges would be spread over a long period, and that a bill for that purpose was already in preparation.

Mr. Chadwick, in reply, said that it was a matter of favour to have the assistance of the Ordnance department in carrying out the work, whose officers and men gained nothing by it but additional work: no extra pay. (Laughter.)

The resolutions were then put and carried with but one dissentient.*

* It was stated in the course of a conversation that the expense if spread over thirty years, would be about 1½d. per house per annum.

Miscellanea.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 7th June, for repairs, alterations, and repewing, at the parish church of Frisby, Leicestershire; by 22nd June, for alterations and additions to the Kent County Prisons; by 6th June, for the erection of carcass of dwelling-house, and for building and finishing warehouse, factory, and other premises, at Haggerstone; by a date not specified, for building and finishing houses at Southampton; by 6th June, for erection of schools and master's house at Southampton; by 9th June, for the erection of an Odd Fellows' Literary Institution at Birmingham; by 2nd June, for certain works at the Halsted Union Workhouse; by 7th June, for the erection of booking-offices, &c., at Leeds station; by 8th June, for supply of various paving materials for St. Giles-in-the-fields and St. George, Bloomsbury; by 9th June, for paving in St. Ann's, West; by 30th inst., for lighting the City with gas; by 7th June, for laying down water-pipes in Southampton; also by 2nd June, for a survey plan and valuation of Houghton Regis parish.

MEETING OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, LINCOLN.—The members of this society have arranged to hold their next meeting in the city of Lincoln, in the week beginning Tuesday the 25th of July. There will be three sections, at which papers will be read on architecture, history, and antiquities. Excursions will be made to Southwell, Tattershall, and other places. Professor Willis will give a lecture on the minster. Papers will also be read, among others, on the Roman remains of Lincoln, the castle, the palace. The Council of the Institute has solicited the exhibition of the regalia, and access to the antiquarian section of the ancient documents of the corporation. The Town Council resolved to afford all possible facilities, enabling the institute to carry out their objects. A writer in the *Lincolnshire Times*, who signs himself "A Visitor," has been finding fault with the buildings last erected in this city. He says,—"I think Lincoln has lost the art of classic building. My attention was first attracted to a new building, which I was informed was the 'New Corn Exchange.' Had it been a money change, I should have wished that not only the tables of the money-changers were overthrown, but the change itself. I felt no inclination to inquire the names of your several architects, as, by the specimens, posterity will not require them. The building is disproportionate, of no known order, and out of the square; it has large pillars in front, with no corresponding capital: the entrance is more adapted for a solemn mosque than for commercial resort; the arches are narrowed within the proportion of height. The Exchange itself would do for a republic of bees, where humming is the language: for, either from the want of attention, or of knowledge of the science of acoustics, the vibration and echo were so striking to me, that a speaker would have to gulp his own words—they could never reach the auditory at any distance. I proceeded to the new hotel intended for the Great Northern Railway. On an external view, it was apparent that the ingenuity of the architect has been taxed to make a large good building out of a bad small one. I will give him credit for the endeavour, but I cannot compliment him on his success. The entrance door is out of all proportion; it is small and insignificant. The interior I did not see; but, from the exterior, I could form an opinion, which was highly favourable for public accommodation. On returning to 'mine inn,' I had opportunity sufficient to examine the building, but lately erected. The same faults were as visible in this as in the other buildings. The architect evidently shadowed forth on his 'card board' an Elizabethan building, but he has not fully carried it out; consequently, the intended effects are defects." As we shall probably take a peep at the doings of the "institute" in the ancient city, we shall be able to confirm or contradict this censure.

THE WESTERN LITERARY INSTITUTION.—Mr. J. S. Buckingham has commenced a course of lectures here on Italy and the Italians. The lectures of June 1 and 8 will treat of the ancient and modern buildings of Rome.

For a comprehensive guide on OCR and PDF Compression go to ThePaperlessOffice.org